Technical Assistance Exchange
January 23, 2013

A weekly update for Aging & Disability Resource Centers, Community Living Programs, Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs, Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Service Program and their Partners

Contact us with questions about this newsletter: adrc-tae@lewin.com or 703.269.5574

Please visit the ADRC-TAE Website for a text version of this newsletter.

In This Issue

ACA Proposed Regulations Open for Comment

New Resources

Upcoming Events

Contact Us!

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Reminder: Quarterly Webinar for ADRC Grantees: Enhanced Options Counseling Update

The Administration on Community Living (ACL) is engaged in a collaborative process with 8 states (CT, MD, MA, NH, OR, VT, WA, WI) that will serve as high performing national models for providing LTSS Options Counseling for all populations and all payers. ACL is hosting a webinar on January 24, 2012 at 2pm ET to share with ADRC grantees some of the progress made by the Part A states including specific updates on the topic of Medicaid administrative funding and Options Counseling Training. The FFP Box of Resources for Part B states Jan 2013 is available online.

Affordable Care Act Proposed Regulations Involving Medicaid Expansion, Essential Health Benefits, Notice & Appeals and Cost-Sharing Released - Your Comments Are Invited

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) wants you to be aware of newly proposed regulations on the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), involving the 2014 Medicaid expansion and both flexibilities and safeguards being built into the Medicaid program. These proposed regulations were announced on Monday, January 14, 2013, and are published in the Federal Register today.

On January 14, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released a proposed rule related to the Medicaid expansion that promotes consistent policies and processes for eligibility notices and appeals in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Exchanges and gives states more flexibility when operating their Medicaid programs - particularly around cost-sharing. HHS encourages all Americans to review and submit comments on the proposed rule.

Comments may be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services or CMS offices, or Electronically by 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2013. Please refer to file code: CMS-2334-P.

New Resources

Enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace starts October 1st, and coverage starts in January 2014. Now that October 1 is fast approaching, The Health Insurance Marketplace Toolkit has resources to help

you spread the word about the Marketplace. The toolkit includes information, tools, and resources you need to help consumers find health insurance to fit their budget, with less hassle. As new items are developed for outreach, we'll continue to add them to this toolkit.

Upcoming Events

1) Quarterly Webinar for ADRC Grantees: Enhanced Options Counseling Update

The Administration on Community Living (ACL) is engaged in a collaborative process with 8 states (CT, MD, MA, NH, OR, VT, WA, WI) that will serve as high performing national models for providing LTSS Options Counseling for all populations and all payers. ACL is hosting a webinar on January 24, 2012 at 2pm ET to share with ADRC grantees some of the progress made by the Part A states including specific updates on the topic of Medicaid administrative funding and Options Counseling Training.

*Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 2:00 PM ET
*Register Here
*Call-in: (866) 233-3852, Passcode: 277405#
* FFP Box of Resources for Part B states Jan 2013

2) CMS Stakeholder call about materials now available about the Health Insurance Marketplace
Join the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Serivces (CMS) for an informational call on Thursday, January 24 regarding the new materials available on HealthCare.gov available now for partners and consumers. During this call, you will learn about the outreach and educational materials you can use to build awareness about the Health Insurance Marketplace. There will be an opportunity to ask questions before the call via email and during the live Q&A session. As you know, the Affordable Care Act creates unprecedented opportunities for millions of Americans to access health insurance coverage. The Health Insurance Marketplace also will offer important new health insurance options for small businesses and their employees.

*Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 1:30 PM ET
*Only those participants that register will receive the call-in information and materials. Please register no later than COB Wednesday, January 23 by emailing partnership@cms.hhs.gov with your full name, organization/agency, and email address.

3) Webinar: Promising Practices for Medicaid Managed Long-Term Services and Supports
On Tuesday, January 29, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will continue its series of webinars on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on older adults,

people with disabilities and the aging and disability networks, focusing on managed long-term services and supports. As an increasing number of states move toward developing and implementing managed long-term services and supports systems for older adults and individuals with disabilities, important lessons can be learned from those states that have already made this transition. This month we will examine promising practices for managed long-term services and supports from states with existing programs.

*Tuesday, January 29, 3:30-5:00 PM ET
*Register Here

TAE Update of the Week:

Overwhelmed by all the resources on the New Resources page? Did you know that you can sort them using the circle icons? Simply click the circle matching what you're interested in, and only resources in that category will appear. Some of these categories are: Key Resources, TAE Created Resources, and VDHCBS Resources.

Contact us anytime at adrc-tae@lewin.com for website support.